



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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District of Arizona*

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## **FORMER IMMIGRATION OFFICER SENTENCED FOR HARBORING AN ILLEGAL ALIEN**

TUCSON, Ariz – Ramon M. Sanchez Jr., 42, of Tucson, Ariz., was sentenced here to 120 days of home confinement, by U.S. District Judge John M. Roll. Sanchez had pleaded guilty on October 28, 2005 to a charge of Harboring an Illegal Alien. Sanchez was formerly a Detention Officer with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in Tucson, Ariz.

U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton stated “former Agent Sanchez’s conduct made mockery of the very immigration laws he swore to uphold. This sentence sends a message that no one is above the law.” All federal law enforcement agencies and the U.S. Attorney’s Office will continue to root out and vigorously prosecute corruption within the ranks of federal agencies.”

Sanchez had been charged with nine counts relating to illegally bringing into the U.S., and transporting and harboring within the U.S., his wife and her 10-year-old son. In a plea agreement with the government, Sanchez admitted that he met Flor Liliana Velasco-Barrera at her workplace. He began a romantic relationship with her in August of 2004 knowing that she was an undocumented alien. Although Sanchez knew that Velasco-Barrera’s illegal employment and residence in the U.S. would subject her to removal for violating the conditions of her non-immigrant visa, Sanchez and Velasco-Barrera married on February 25, 2005 and she lived with him at his residence in Tucson until April 11, 2005.

In addition to 120 days home confinement, Judge Roll sentenced Sanchez to 3 years federal probation, ordered that Sanchez be restricted from future law enforcement employment and pay a \$1,000 fine. As part of his plea agreement, Sanchez resigned his position with DHS, and agreed to not seek future employment in state, local or federal law enforcement.

The investigations in these cases were conducted by Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General (DHS-OIG) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution was handled by Mary Sue Feldmeier, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz..

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-960-TUC-JMR (CRP)  
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